

NRCS **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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Media Advisory

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USDA Grants Benefit Quivira Coalition, Others

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – July 17, 2006 – A U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant of \$75,000 will help the Quivira Coalition create a professional herder training program using low-stress livestock management techniques and basic range condition monitoring. The project will also provide ongoing technical and financial assistance to three Forest Service grazing associations to use herders for five months during the summer grazing season for three seasons. The grant is part of NRCS's Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program.

Three other FY2006 CIG grants will also benefit New Mexico. New Mexico State University received \$75,000 to demonstrate the use of subsurface drip irrigation to farmers in the Southern High Plains. The San Juan River Dineh Water Users, Inc. received \$165,000 for an irrigation water management and Environmental Quality Incentives Program project coordinator. And, the Chicago Climate Exchange received funding for a carbon credit project that encompasses thirteen states including New Mexico. Carbon sequestering is the process of decreasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by increasing the number of plants and plant materials. Carbon credit trading allows landowners using conservation practices to sell carbon credits to companies that produce carbon dioxide.

CIG is a program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies.